

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patricia M. Mathers on 4/10/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 35 line 2, replace [cone] with --- conical element ----

Claims 35, 36, 42-47 line 1, replace [structure] with --- geodesic structure ----

Cancel claims 51, 53-60.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 32, 35-36, 42-47 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art does not provide sufficient motivation to modify Fuller (2905113), Fuller (3203144) or Chamberlain (4270320) to show the geodesic structure comprising a plurality of conical elements, each conical element being a structurally single component having a cone base, a cone wall and a vertex, the cone wall defined by straight lines that extend from the base and intersect each other at the vertex, the conical elements are arranged in an overlapping arrangement so as to form a shell that surrounds an inner volume, a portion of the base of a first conical element overlaps with a portion of the cone wall of an adjacent conical element such that at least one straight line of the cone wall of a first conical element extends substantially parallel to at least one straight

line in the cone wall of the adjacent conical element so as to form a straight strut between the vertex of the first conical element and the vertex of the adjacent conical element, the conical elements are arranged such that a distance and a direction of displacement between any two vertexes of adjacently placed conical elements provides an adjustability of the straight strut that is a strut distance that is infinitely variable between a minimum and maximum limit by adjusting an amount of overlap, the maximum limit being slightly less than a sum of cone-wall lengths of any two adjacent conical elements and the minimum limit of the strut being slightly greater than the cone wall length of one of the two adjacent conical elements in combination with other claimed limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3633

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Phi D A/

Examiner, Art Unit 3633

Phi Dieu Tran A

4/21/08